

**MINUTES
GOVERNOR'S P-20 COUNCIL
General Meeting
Friday, November 18, 2005
3:00 p.m.**

Location: 1700 W. Washington
2nd Floor Conference Room
Phoenix, Az 85007

P-20 Members Present: Governor Napolitano, Dr. Rufus Glasper, Cathleen Barton, Mark Bryce, Ernie Calderon, Susan Carlson, Dr. Michael Crow, Dr. David Curd, Dr. Matthew Diethelm, Gregory Donovan, Bill Estes, Dr. Sybil Francis, Vivian Gonzales, Bob Hagen, Dr. John Haeger, Dr. Karen Butterfield for Superintendent Tom Horne, Jack Jewett, Dr. Peter Likins, Cathy McKee, Dr. Laura Palmer Noone, Dr. Douglas Olesen, Dean Phillips, Kristen Rex, Cindy Rudrud, Senator Harry Mitchell (ex-officio) Representative Ann Kirkpatrick (ex-officio), Amy Besing, Jack Swonson, Dr. Jim Zaharis and Lynda French.

Members Absent: Mayor Phil Gordon, Robert Cassa, Dr. Roy Flores, Representative Laura Knaperak and Senator Toni Hellon (ex-officio)

1. Call to Order and Introductions

Dr. Rufus Glasper called the meeting to order at 3:05 p.m. and welcomed Dr. John Haeger, Chair of the Governor's Committee on Teacher Quality & Support (TQS), who will co-chair the joint meeting. Dr. Glasper also welcomed the members of the Committee on Teacher Quality & Support. Dr. Glasper introduced Amy Besing, a parent representative, and welcomed her as the newest member of the P-20 Council. Dr. Glasper then asked each member of the two boards to briefly introduce him or herself.

Dr. Glasper indicated that the last two meeting of the P-20 Council have been designed to provide the Council's charge; identify immediate issues; establish ad hoc committees to work on these issues; and to provide information on roles and responsibilities of state agencies and other organizations focusing on education issues. Today's agenda is designed to lay the foundation for the Council as it strives to identify the problems as well as the solutions to systemically improving math and science skills for Arizona students.

Dr. Haeger indicated that the TQS Committee is working on recommendations regarding teacher professional development and pay. Dr. Haeger stated that teachers are the lowest

paid degreed professionals in the state and that there is much work to be done in this area. The first set of recommendations will be presented to the Governor on December 5th.

2. Welcome & Meeting Overview

Governor Janet Napolitano thanked Dr. Glasper and Dr. Haeger for their leadership. The Governor announced that Arizona has been awarded a Phase II Grant by the National Governor's Association's Center for Best Practices in the amount of \$50,000 to streamline and improve education governance, and to assist the P-20 Council in moving forward. The Governor thanked the Council for helping Arizona to be recognized as a leader in education.

The Governor provided an overview of the agenda indicating that knowledge creation and dissemination are at the core of economic activity and that the challenge for Arizona is to keep pace with transitioning to a knowledge economy and increase competitiveness worldwide. To do this Arizona's educational system must overcome increasing challenges in math, science and literacy. It is imperative that Arizona keeps good teachers in the classroom and raises the level of student achievement as soon as possible.

The Governor briefly discussed Ireland's success story in transitioning to a knowledge economy. Ireland made this turn around by investing in education and research to create a knowledge-based economy. Arizona can learn by Ireland's success on how to improve math and science skills, increase student interest in science and properly prepare teachers to deliver the knowledge to students across the educational spectrum. Today's agenda is designed to provide examples of local and state efforts to do just that and to provide ideas on how to move forward with the Council's alignment, literacy and higher education agenda.

3. Presentation and Discussion – Robotics Program – Carl Hayden High School.

Dr. Allan Cameron, Fredi Lajvardi, and students Oscar, Annalisa, Cristian, Rebecca and Alan, presented information on the Carl Hayden High School Robotics Program. Carl Hayden High School is an inner city public high school with a 93% Hispanic population and 100% of feeder school students on the federal lunch program. The mission of the Robotics program is to engage students in Science, Engineering and Invention. The Robotics Team has competed successfully in national competition and provides students a rigorous and relevant program that has help improve grade point averages of participants substantially. Every student enrolled in this program has gone on to college and all have earned scholarships. Mr. Lajvardi expressed concern that districts compensate teachers to be sports coaches, but none offer compensation for teachers to facilitate these types of programs. Mr. Lajvardi also indicated the urgent need for corporate sponsorship to ensure the success of math and science extracurricular programs. Several students provided input to the Council on how this program has impacted in a very positive manner their education and plans for the future.

The Council briefly discussed the issues surrounding appropriate education and training of science teachers and that science is not being adequately taught particularly at the junior high school level. Concern was also expressed over the need to bring successful programs such as the Robotics Program to scale as well as the need to look at extending the length of the school day and/or year to provide for adequate teaching time.

4. Presentation and Discussion – Arizona Science Coordinators Association.

Dr. Barry Roth presented the Arizona Science Coordinators Association's (ASCA) white paper on issues facing Arizona is making students scientifically literate. Dr. Roth stressed that Arizona students must have adequate instructional time to participate in scientific inquiry and to reflect upon learning. He further indicated that teachers of science require adequate training to provide students with quality science instruction. Funding sources must be made available to provide schools and school districts with the resources required to support science, math, and technology instruction, and to attract and retain highly qualified teachers. Dr. Roth stressed the importance of adolescent literacy and that a student's ability to read was the number one indicator of success in math and science. The Council briefly discussed the need for math and science improvement to be implemented simultaneously; the current focus of the Committee for Teacher Quality and Support in addressing the issues of professional development and compensation in their recommendations; and the need to start rigorous science programs as a lower grade level.

5. Presentation and Discussion: BioScience Discovery of Arizona.

Roseanne Morris, Superintendent of the Saddle Mountain School District, discussed an exciting new project being formed within the State of Arizona to introduce school children to the rigors and excitement of working in the field of bio-technology. The combined collaboration and support of 12 school districts representing over 100,000 students, local and state government and businesses throughout the state, the project is well positioned to accomplish this goal. Inspiring students to engage in international scientific discovery is the goal and will be accomplished in three ways. First, the development of sophisticated, interactive and rigorous new curricula. Second, internships at TGEN, Mayo Clinic and other health/research facilities. Third, use of the Internet to transmit actual conversations with leading scientists as they discuss their discoveries, not yet available even in textbooks, with students through out the state.

Dr. Ronald Berman, Vice President of Countrywide Financial, spoke to his experience and involvement, and the experience and involvement of his daughter, with this program.

The Council discussed the importance of how curriculum development of this program be scaled to state curriculum, and aligned as to provide appropriate state standards. Ms. Morris also indicted that internships were still be developed and were an important component of the program to provide exposure for students.

6. Call to the Public

Anna Ciceros, a school counselor with the Mesa Public Schools District, addressed the Council on the need to help teach students how to connect the dots and to help train counselors on “engineering” careers.

Carol Pokovich invited the Committee and the Council to the competition for Carl Hayden High School’s Falcon Robotics Team. The “FIRST Arizona Regional” will be held on March 9th and 10th at Veteran’s Coliseum.

Laura Williamson indicated that she was excited by what she had heard at the meeting and that these types of programs need to be accessible to all children including children living in rural areas of the state.

Susan Carlson and Dr. Jim Zaharis both expressed concern for the need to combine career and technical education programs with academics; the need to support programs such as Carl Hayden’s Robotic Program; and that there needs to be discussion on how 301 dollars can be directed to such programs.

7. Announcements and Adjournment

Dr. Haeger thanked both the Committee for Teacher Quality and Support and the P-20 Council for their hard work. The next meeting of the Committee for Teacher Quality and Support is December 5th.

Dr. Glasper reminded the P-20 Council that the next meeting is December 6 at 10:30 a.m.

There being no further business, Dr. Glasper adjourned the meeting at 4:35 p.m.